

~~SECRET~~
~~EYES ONLY~~

20 March 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Deputy Director/Intelligence

**SUBJECT: Future Role of [] (Strategic Missile)
Panel**

25X1A5A1

25X1A5A1

25X1A5A1 1. The following information is provided for background use

in your discussion with []

[] this afternoon regarding the
future of the DCI [] Panel on Strategic Missiles. This

25X1A5A1

memorandum requires no action but it is likely that []

25X1A5A1

will look to you for endorsement, termination, or modification of

25X1A5A1

the [] activity.

25X1A5A1

2. An informal group composed of []

25X1A5A1

25X1A5A1

[]
[]
to review the soundness of early missile estimates. It is my under-
standing that the Panel came down very hard on these early estimates,
which were based largely on presumed requirements for and ability

~~SECRET~~

~~EYES ONLY~~

~~SECRET~~

~~EYES ONLY~~

SUBJECT: Future Role of [] (Strategic Missile) Panel

25X1A5A1

to build and deploy long range missiles. In this role, they acted as an important insurance policy for the DCI in a field then characterized by very modest collection and analysis capabilities.

25X1A5A1

1. The Panel was subsequently formalized as the [] Panel and met as an institutionalized body with variable membership on the following dates:

- a. November 1958
- b. August 1959
- c. September 1961
- d. June 1962

Their charter was to assess the status of the Soviet ICBM program, and they have been used recently to comment on drafts of the 11-5 estimate before final approval. Whatever its limitation, this commentary has come to carry considerable weight in the community and is often quoted - when useful.

4. The first Panel reported to the DCI, but USIB requested that (a) membership of subsequent panels include nominees from each service, and (b) the Panel report directly to USIB. The Panels

~~SECRET~~

~~EYES ONLY~~

25X1A5A1

SUBJECT: Future Role of

have been supported by OSI and GMAIC together, the latter being emphasized as the affair has become more of a community concern.

5. My own contact with the Panel was as a member in 1961 and
25X1A5A1 as the newly arrived AD/SI in June 1962. I have also discussed the

trend and problems of the Panel at some length with

[redacted] in its present format this Panel may have outlived
its useful life, because of the following:

a. There has been a tremendous increase in our collection capability against both the deployment and technical characteristics problems, with a corresponding (but slower) increase in our ability to produce intelligence from this data.

b. The Panel finds it almost impossible to absorb a year's worth of collection and analysis in a three-day session.

c. The nomination and partially instructed membership poses a tremendous negotiating problem for [redacted] n
his unceasing efforts to be effective on hotly disputed issues, especially when he must return to [redacted] and solicit business

3

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

25X1A5A1

SUBJECT: Future Role of [REDACTED]

from the Services. In a real way, [REDACTED] has all the problems of USIB in miniature without the statutory authority of the DCL.

25X1A5A1

d. Elements of ORR and ONE have become increasingly restless with the [REDACTED] Panel and opposed its convening last year on the grounds that it probably could not comment on the 11-8 draft in a decisive way after only three days and might well lead the community astray by superficial or erroneous comments which could be quoted to the detriment of our own position.

25X1A5A1

25X1A5A1 While there is much to this point, OSI has consistently supported the [REDACTED] and was primarily responsible for its assembly last June.

6. If it is your desire to continue an outside missile advisory panel in parallel with the [REDACTED], I would make the following recommendations:

25X1A5A1

a. That it be a DCI Panel appointed by and reporting to yourself, and that you exploit it as your own insurance policy on community production.

4

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

25X1A5A1

SUBJECT: Future Role of

b. That USIB receive the results upon request and that all components be invited (through OSI or CMAIC) to brief the Panel according to their demonstrated analytical accomplishments.

c. That the Panel meet every three or four months to receive substantive briefings on missile matters without making special reports, so that when they are called upon to render critical judgments they will be current and heavily into the issues before coming together. This last action was requested by Mr. as a requirement for effective action in the future.

25X1A5A1

ALBERT D. WHEELON
Assistant Director
Scientific Intelligence

CONCURRENCE:

25X1

for
Deputy Director/Intelligence

20 March 1963
Date

OSI/OAD/ADWheelon/ld/20 Mar 63
Distribution:
2 - Addressee 1 - AD/ONE 5
1 - DDCI 1 - AD/RR
1 - DD/I 1 - DD/R
1 - Exec Director 2 - AD/SI

SECRET
EYES ONLY